

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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O P 171205Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBAZSY BRAZZAVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 734
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
URFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 229
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 035

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 0787

LONDON FOR ASST. SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAU, XA, CG, CF
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON CONSIDERATION OF ZAIRE SITUATION AT
OAU SUMMIT

REF: (A) STATE 150348; (B) BRAZZAVILLE 785 NOTAL, (C) STATE
148408 (RECEIVED BRAZZAVILLE JUNE 16)

SUMMARY: CONGOLESE REACTION POSITIVE. THEY DESIRE RENEW
ZAIRE/ANGOLA/MEDIATION EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ABSENCE FROM BRAZZAVILLE OF PRESIDENT, PRIME
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MINISTER, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS--ALL UP-COUNTRY
(BRAZZAVILLE 767 NOTAL)--AND SYG OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS (WHO IS AT UNSSOD), WE HAD CHOICE AS RECIPIENT
OF DEMARCHE AMONG ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO USUALLY
IS CULTURE, SPORTS, AND ARTS MINISTER, PRESIDENTIAL
POLITICAL ADVISOR EKONDY, AND DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENT'S
CABINET. MINISTER OF CULTURE PACKS LITTLE CLOUT; THEREFORE

CHARGE CHOSE TO CALL ON EKONDY, WHO, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, IS VERY CLOSE TO PRESIDENT, AND HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DESIGNING CONGOLESE REACTION TO SHABA FORCE AND SIGNIFICANTLY, CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA. THERE WAS ANOTHER ADVANTAGE IN CALLING ON EKONDY, SINCE HE WILL BE ATTENDING OAU SUMMIT. CHARGE PLANS ALSO TO SEE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTOR OF CABINET JUNE 19, AND WE WILL REPORT AGAIN THEREAFTER.

2. DURING MEETING MORNING JUNE 16, EKONDY, WHOM DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL AS HAVING BEEN VIRULENT CRITIC OF SHABA FORCE, WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH US POSITION OUTLINED STATE 150348. HE PICKED OUT PHRASES FROM LITERALLY EACH TALKING POINT TO EMPHASIZE THAT US OBVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION AT HAND. SEVERAL TIMES HE SAID, "THE UNITED STATES HAS SUCH A GREAT TOLE TO PLAY IN HELPING AFRICA; A ROLE NO ONE ELSE CAN FILL BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT A COLONIALIST."

3. IN REPLY TO CHARGE'S SPECIFIC QUESTION, EKONDY STATED THAT CONGO WANTED VERY MUCH TO RENEW ITS MEDIATION ROLE, AND THAT HE WOULD CONTACT ON HIS OWN MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMBER EBAKA, WHO HAS BEEN A YHOMBY-MOBUTU GO-BETWEEN. EKONDY ADDED THAT HE WOULD LIKE CHARGE TO MEET WITH EBAKA TO DISCUSS DIRECTION THINGS MIGHT GO. ONE PRELIMINARY WHICH EKONDY CITED
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AS NECESSARY WAS TO HAVE MOBUTU STOP FANNING THREAT OF NEW SUPPORT TO FNLA. EKONDY CHARACTERIZED MOBUTU'S ACTION IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER, AS BLUSTER INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN ZAIRE'S NEGOTIATING POSITION, ALONG LINES KINSHASA 6194 NOTAL.

4. COMMENT: CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO HAVE CONGOLESE PURSUE MEDIATION ROLE. OAU PEACE KEEPING FORCE HAD BEEN EARLIER IDEA OF NGOUABI AND AN INITIATIVE WHICH YHOMBY CITED ON NUMEROUS OCCASION RECENTLY, WHILE CRITICIZING FRENCH PRESENCE IN SHABA. CONGOLESE DO NOT APPEAR AS YET TO HAVE FOCUSED ON WHETHER SUCH AN OAU FORCE MIGHT INTER-RELATE WITH THEIR MEDIATION EFFORT, NOR HAVE THEY REALLY THROUGH OUT A POSITION FOR UPCOMING OAU SUMMIT, AND WE BELIEVE US COULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN ASSISTING SHAPING OF NEXT CONGOLESE STEP REGARDING MEDIATION.
KATZEN

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